AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> search and navigation system for a set of materials comprising:

<u>a plurality of attribute-value pairs associated with the materials, wherein each of a plurality of values has an association with at least one of</u> a plurality of attributes characterizing the materials;

~~a plurality of values describing the materials, wherein each of the values has an association with at least one of the attributes and each association defines an attribute-value pair;~~

a plurality of navigation states, wherein each navigation state corresponds to a particular expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of <u>the</u> materials<u>, wherein for each navigation state the particular subset of the materials corresponding to the navigation state consists of those materials that are each described by every attribute-value pair in the particular set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to that navigation state</u>;

<u>wherein within the plurality of navigation states, at least a first navigation state includes a first attribute-value pair having a first attribute in which the first attribute-value pair does not describe all the materials that the first attribute characterizes, and a second navigation state includes at least the first attribute-value pair and a second attribute-value pair having a second attribute, which is not the same as the first attribute, in which the second attribute-value pair does not describe all the materials that the second attribute characterizes;</u>

2

a set of rules for manipulating content provided in response to a query, a first query corresponding to a third navigation state corresponding to a third particular expression of attribute-value pairs and a third particular subset of materials, at least a first rule being composed of a first trigger for activating the first rule if the third particular expression of attribute-value pairs satisfies the trigger, the trigger including a third attribute-value pair, and a first action for providing a first manipulated subset of materials that is different from the third particular subset of materials if the first rule is activated; and

an interface for providing a plurality of transitions, each transition providing a direct path between two of the navigation states, wherein each transition represents a change from the set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to an originating navigation state to the set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to a destination navigation state, wherein a series of one or more transitions provides a path between any two navigation states, for receiving the first query, for providing a representation of a navigation state a response to the first query, the response including the third particular subset of materials if the first rule is not activated and including the first manipulated set of materials if the first rule is activated, for modifying one or more rules from the set of rules, and for providing a representation of how modification of one or more rules affects the navigation statethe response to the first query.

2.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented search and navigation system for a set of materials comprising:

a plurality of attribute-value pairs associated with the materials, wherein each of a plurality of values has an association with at least one of a plurality of attributes characterizing the materials;

3

a plurality of values describing the materials, wherein each of the values has an

association with at least one of the attributes and each association defines an attribute-value

pair;

a plurality of navigation states, wherein each navigation state corresponds to a particular

expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of the materials, wherein for each

navigation state the particular subset of the materials corresponding to the navigation state

consists of those materials that are each described by every attribute-value pair in the

particular set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to that navigation state;

wherein within the plurality of navigation states, at least a first navigation state includes a

first attribute-value pair having a first attribute in which the first attribute-value pair does not

describe all the materials that the first attribute characterizes, a second navigation state

includes at least the first attribute-value pair and a second attribute-value pair having a second

attribute, which is not the same as the first attribute, in which the second attribute-value pair

does not describe all the materials that the second attribute characterizes;

a rules engine for defining and processing a set of rules for manipulating content for

display generated from a current navigation state, first content for display being generated

using the current navigation state if no rule is activated, wherein each rule is composed of a

trigger for activating the rule if the trigger is satisfied, wherein the trigger is evaluated against

the current navigation state, and an action for providing second content for display in place of

first content for display if the rule is activated, wherein a first rule includes a first trigger that

includes a third attribute-value pair, and a first action for providing a first manipulated subset

of materials in place of the current particular subset of materials corresponding to the current

navigation state if the first rule is activated; and

4

an interface for providing a representation of a-the current navigation state and for

applying information from a-the current navigation state to the rules engine to create one or

more rules.

3.   (Currently amended) The search and navigation system of claim 2, wherein the

interface further includes a representation of how one or more rules were processed in

reaching a-the current navigation state.

4.   (Original) The search and navigation system of claim 2, wherein the interface

further includes a representation of one or more rules that were triggered and/or one or more

actions that resulted from a triggering of one or more rules.

5.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented search and navigation system for

a set of materials comprising:

a plurality of attribute-value pairs associated with the materials, wherein each of a

plurality of values has an association with at least one of a plurality of attributes characterizing

the materials;

a plurality of values describing the materials, wherein each of the values has an

association with at least one of the attributes and each association defines an attribute-value

pair;

a plurality of navigation states, wherein each navigation state corresponds to a particular

expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of materials-, wherein for each

navigation state the particular subset of the materials corresponding to the navigation state

consists of those materials that are each described by every attribute-value pair in the

particular set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to that navigation state;

wherein within the plurality of navigation states, at least a first navigation state includes a first attribute-value pair having a first attribute in which the first attribute-value pair does not describe all the materials that the first attribute characterizes, a second navigation state includes at least the first attribute-value pair and a second attribute-value pair having a second attribute, which is not the same as the first attribute, in which the second attribute-value pair does not describe all the materials that the second attribute characterizes;

an interface for displaying content including a representation of a current navigation state, using a first representation if no rule is activated; and

a rules engine for specifying a set of rules for manipulating ~~displayed~~ the content displayed by the interface, at least a first rule being composed of a first trigger for activating the first rule if the current navigation state satisfies the first trigger, the first trigger including a third attribute-value pair, and a first action for providing a second representation of the current navigation state in place of the first representation if the first rule is activated;

wherein, the interface further provides a representation of one or more rules associated with the current navigation state, including the first rule.

6.   (Previously presented) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the interface further provides for modification of one or more rules associated with the current navigation state.

7.   (Previously presented) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the interface further provides for an addition of one or more rules associated with the current navigation state.

6

8.   (Previously presented) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the representation of one or more rules includes a representation of which of the one or more rules are activated.

9.   (Previously presented) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the interface further provides for applying information from a current navigation state to the rules engine to specify one or more rules.

10.   (Previously presented) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the displayed content and the representation of one or more rules associated with the current navigation state are combined.

11.   (Currently amended) The search and navigation system of claim 5, wherein the displayed content and the representation of one or more rules associated with the current navigation state are split.

12.   (Cancelled) A method for navigating a set of materials, a plurality of attributes characterizing the materials, a plurality of values describing the materials, wherein each of the values has an association with at least one of the attributes and each association defines an attribute-value pair, the method comprising:

displaying content including a current navigation state, wherein a navigation state corresponds to a particular expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of materials; and

displaying, with the displayed content, one or more rules associated with the current navigation state for manipulating the displayed content.

13.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

revising the displayed rules; and

7

updating the displayed content in accordance with application of the revised rules.

14.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 13, wherein revising the displayed rules includes modifying one or more of the displayed rules.

15.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 13, wherein revising the displayed rules includes adding one or more rules to the displayed rules.

16.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 12, further comprising creating one or more rules using information from the current navigation state.

17.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 12, wherein creating one or more rules includes using a current navigation state to specify a trigger for activating a rule.

18.   (Cancelled) The method of claim 12, wherein creating one or more rules includes using a current navigation state to specify an action to be taken when one or more conditions for a rule are satisfied.

19.   (Cancelled) A computer program product, residing on a computer readable medium, for navigating a set of materials, a plurality of attributes characterizing the materials, a plurality of values describing the materials, wherein each of the values has an association with at least one of the attributes and each association defines an attribute-value pair, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

display content including a current navigation state, wherein a navigation state corresponds to a particular expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of materials; and

display, with the displayed content, one or more rules associated with the current navigation state for manipulating the displayed content.

20. (New) A computer-implemented search and navigation system for a set of

materials comprising:

a plurality of attribute-value pairs associated with the materials, wherein each of a

plurality of values has an association with at least one of a plurality of attributes characterizing

the materials;

a plurality of navigation states, wherein each navigation state corresponds to a particular

expression of attribute-value pairs and to a particular subset of the materials, wherein for each

navigation state the particular subset of the materials corresponding to the navigation state

consists of those materials that are each described by every attribute-value pair in the

particular set of attribute-value pairs corresponding to that navigation state;

wherein within the plurality of navigation states, at least a first navigation state includes a

first attribute-value pair having a first attribute in which the first attribute-value pair does not

describe all the materials that the first attribute characterizes, and a second navigation state

includes at least the first attribute-value pair and a second attribute-value pair having a second

attribute, which is not the same as the first attribute, in which the second attribute-value pair

does not describe all the materials that the second attribute characterizes;

a set of rules for manipulating content provided in response to a query, at least a first rule

being composed of a first trigger for activating the first rule if a third navigation state

identified as corresponding to a first query satisfies the first trigger, the first trigger including a

third attribute-value pair, and a first action for generating a fourth particular expression of

attribute-value pairs; and

an interface for providing a plurality of transitions, each transition providing a direct path

between two of the navigation states, wherein each transition represents a change from the set

of attribute-value pairs corresponding to an originating navigation state to the set of attribute-

value pairs corresponding to a destination navigation state, wherein a series of one or more

transitions provides a path between any two navigation states, for receiving the first query, for

providing a response to the first query, the response including a representation of the third

navigation state when the first rule is not activated and a representation of a fourth navigation

state having the fourth particular expression of attribute-value pairs when the first rule is

activated, for modifying one or more rules from the set of rules, and for providing a

representation of how modification of one or more rules affects the response to the first query.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the fourth particular expression is generated by

addition of an attribute-value pair to the third particular expression of attribute-value pairs.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the fourth particular expression is generated by

removal of an attribute-value pair from the third particular expression of attribute-value pairs.